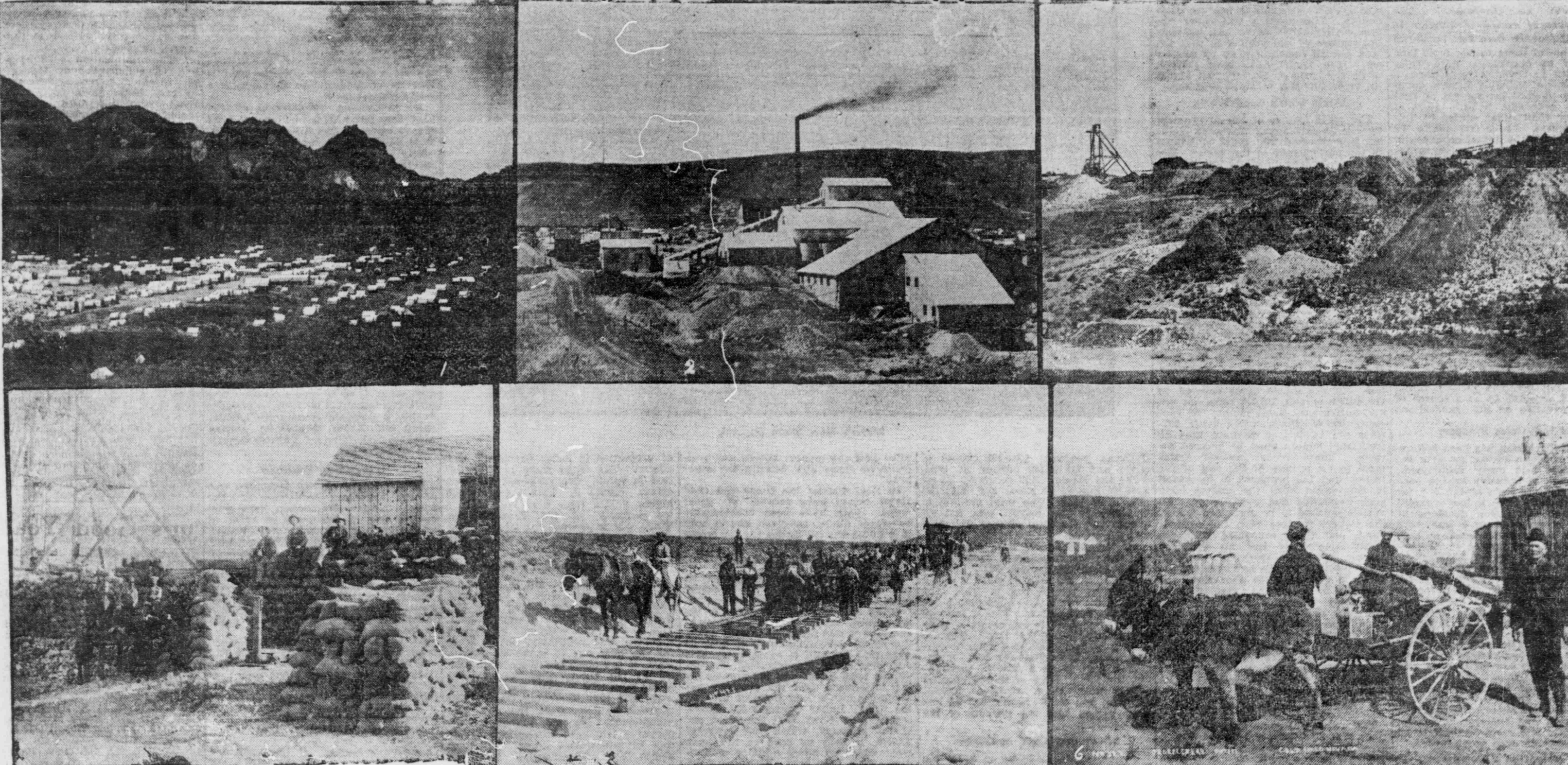


# Sagebrush Nevada Has Become a Second "Golden State"

1—Rhyolite and Rush Mountain, Nevada. 2—Combination Mill, Goldfield, Nevada. 3—Jumbo Mine, Where Millionaires Are Made. 4—Red Top Ore Ready for Shipment. 5—Building the Caliente-Goldfield Railroad. 6—Prospectors Start From Goldfield. 7—First Pack Trains to Goldfield. 8—The Follies of the Desert. 9—"Fellow Feeling Makes Us Wondrous Kind." 10—Bartlett Leasing Big Strike No. 8.



BY WING B. ALLEN.

Sometimes the situation in Nevada is referred to as a "revival" and sometimes as an "excitement." Both are apt terms. The present great mining revival is a constant excitement. In the minds of mining men, however, the two terms convey different meanings. Wherever mineralized rock is discovered which it will pay to mine there is a mining "revival." "Excitement" follows when free milling gold ore is found, and if the glorious, dull yellow metal can be seen in the rock by the naked eye, excitement grows in proportion to the amount visible.

There probably never was a time when so many rich specimens of gold-bearing rock were uncovered as during the past year in Goldfield. Seeing it, makes the mouth water; the hope of owning some of it, incites all the passions of the human race. Tonopah is now five years old. Goldfield is two years old and Bullfrog is one year old. There are a dozen other camps of importance in Nevada, but the three named hold the greater amount of popular public interest. "Popular public interest" could make a mining camp on the lava beds of Idaho if it wanted to do so. It is the mainstay of the mining industry. Half the miners would starve were it not for the public—the investing public which loves to invest in popular camps. Goldfield has not only been the most popular camp in the public's estimation, but it has been the high-grade camp and the poor man's camp, each feature adding to its opportunities.

After the Thunder mountain fiasco in 1901-02 the country was ripe for a genuine mining excitement, but even then Tonopah suffered from lack of attention. It took a whole year to get the feeling under way, and all that time the mountains in that vicinity contained great veins of ore worth millions upon millions of dollars. Looking back upon events now, it is hard to understand why so many hundreds of men made their way on snowshoes and suffered all kinds of hardships in an effort to reach Thunder mountain when they could have reached Tonopah so much more easily. No one that really knew the truth about Thunder mountain would tell it, while mining men from Tonopah shouted themselves hoarse in an effort to attract attention, and, whether they knew it or not, they were telling the truth when they said there was great wealth at Tonopah.

## Revival Carries Tonopah.

The Nevada mining "revival" finally got under way at Tonopah. The Nevada mining "excitement" broke out when Goldfield was discovered. The gods themselves conspired in favor of Goldfield. By that time Thunder mountain was forgotten and the disappointed were returning even from Klondike. Colorado was in the midst of its trouble with the unions. Half the Colorado mines were closed down. Probably 5,000 Colorado miners joined the Goldfield stampede.

Fully 20,000 men populated Tonopah and Goldfield, and finally, Bullfrog and a dozen other new camps. Ten thousand of them made Goldfield their headquarters and prospected the surrounding country from there. One would think that great changes would follow in the wake of so mighty a movement. Strange to say, the only noticeable change in the past six months has been in the contour of the hills. Mighty dumps have been thrown up on the side of hills and every small block of ground is perforated with prospect holes. In other words, the population of the three camps has remained quite stationary.

The majority of the first-comers remained; a large number became discouraged early and pulled out for other fields; but for every man that left there was a newcomer to take his place. A few are discouraged and still remain. One of this class was heard to say not long since that he had been unable to find anything in Nevada, and if here he could not conceive of more likely ground to prospect.

"Once a prospector, always a prospector." If a prospector cannot make his living in Nevada, and if here he does not retain the hope of fortune

which is the dream of every man of his calling, where on God's earth will he stand a better show?

## Boom Is Only Started.

How many people joined the Nevada excitement is unknown, but the number was estimated at 20,000 last spring, and that figure is considered approximately correct. The census of 1900 gave the state a population of a little over 40,000. It had over 60,000 in 1880. The next census will doubtless show a population of 70,000, at least, but as that enumeration will not be made for five years, there is no telling how large the figure may be. For the boom has but just commenced, in the judgment of many men. Enough silver and gold has been uncovered at Tonopah alone to occupy the sole attention of every workman in the state for an indefinitely long period of time. Twelve great principal veins of ore have been discovered there and in a number of instances have been traced for one mile in length, while they doubtless go down into the depths of the earth as far as it will ever be possible to mine them. It is claimed that all the ore so far taken out has averaged \$80 to the ton. This beats the Comstock. The fabulous riches extracted by Flood, Mackay, Fair and their associates, only averaged \$34.50 per ton.

## Wonders of Tonopah Mines.

The Mispah mine of the Tonopah Mining company is the show place of that camp. Down in the depths of that mine they have one enough blocked out to keep financiers guessing for years to come. Every day visitors are shown through. The sight would make old Solomon take heed. Imagine if you can long galleries with every few feet a doorway leading into treasure rooms. Already enough money has been taken out of this one mine to build two railroads and to make 100 men rich. There are a half dozen other mines in Tonopah and in all 1,000 men find employment, and the lowest wages are \$4 per day. Tonopah is a thriving city, fast taking on the air of that greatest mining city in the world, Butte, Mont. In another year nothing which can contribute to human convenience, comfort and—nervousness, will be lacking in Tonopah. It has electric lights, railroads, telephones, and a thousand and one things which go to make up city life, and it will soon have street cars and pavements. These things are being installed 300 miles in the American desert, mind you.

It seems hardly the proper way to put it to suggest that anything has been or is holding Tonopah back. A place that has made such giant strides in five years can hardly be said to have been held back, and yet, it has been held back. Something is the matter with it. Of course, the world can consume all the metal it can produce. No one has more than dreamed that there is enough silver and gold in the world to supply the demand. But it is a fact that Tonopah has trouble disposing of its ores. The production of metal in the United States seems to have increased until there are not enough smelters to handle it. Over in the Salt Lake valley there are a lot of smelters and the trust and private capital are building more as fast as possible, but they will have to hurry. By the time they are all in running order they won't be able to handle all the Utah production, let alone Nevada's.

But this trouble will not be brooked long. It is at most but a temporary setback upon an otherwise serene aspect. Big men are back of Tonopah. Charles M. Schwab is one of them. To help supply the demand he has just purchased and will rebuild an old smelter over on the Pacific coast. Eventually, he and men like him, who are interested, will provide all the smelters and mills necessary to reduce the ores of Tonopah, Goldfield, Bullfrog and all the other Nevada camps.

## Greater Than the Comstock.

Yes, Tonopah is a great camp and men say it will surpass the Comstock. Many believe that. But suppose it only does a tenth of what the Comstock did. It will still be great. It has a population of about 4,000, but Tonopah is not the popular camp. Goldfield is

the place people dream about. There are several causes contributing to this situation. In the first place heavy capitalists got hold of Tonopah mines and small investors had little show. Secondly and thirdly, the ore is for the most part low grade and required real money to pay for mining; and lastly, Goldfield is advertised, and it pays to advertise.

Investors, fortune seekers, capitalists, soldiers of fortune and adventurers are headed for Nevada and have been going into Nevada for the past five years. They leave the main overland highway 300 miles on the north, and the first mining camp they strike is Tonopah. They have merely heard of it as the place where Butler's mule got in his best day's work. The free and easy-going boosters of the camp, all of whom have had money handed to them, as it were, are very polite and accommodating about showing the sights. They show the spot where the mule found pay dirt and dilate on the length and breadth of the great veins of the camp. They tell the visitor that it is all wonderful. And he visitor agrees with them, and feels it, but all the time is anxious to catch the first train for Goldfield, the place he has read about in his home paper. After he has been to Goldfield he may go on to Bullfrog, but if he does, he is sure to return to Goldfield, where he makes his headquarters. In these remarks there is no intention of reflecting on Tonopah or Bullfrog, and this article is not written by a Goldfield booster, but the writer is simply telling the gospel as he has learned it.

## Where Poor Men Have a Chance.

As stated, Goldfield is a high-grade camp and a poor man's camp. By a poor man's camp is meant a place where a man without means stands (just about) as much chance to make money as the man with a bank roll back of him. The Goldfield district is a wide one. Location work was done on about 5,000 claims, covering some 100 square miles of territory. Most of the pay discoveries have been made in the center of this district, but gold ore has been shipped from points five miles apart. It is a gold camp. Nothing but gold has been discovered here, and chunks of it have been uncovered which were almost the pure stuff. That is why some people think the place has been lied about so much. Well, perhaps it has been lied about considerably, but the truth is plenty good enough. Rich strikes are constantly being telegraphed over the country. Men should learn to understand that these strikes are for the most part just what they are represented to be, no more, no less. If it is reported that "Smith" for instance, has broken into a body of \$250,000 ore on the "Lucky Boy" claim; that the vein is well defined; that the indications are that it will last forever; but that it would require further development work to determine the facts, there is no misstatement made. The only thing that Smith and the local papers can be crit-

icized for is that there is no "follow up" story the next day when it might have been noted that Smith had further explored his find and discovered that the "vein" was a bunch and the values had pinched out. But these latter discoveries are seldom interesting. Besides, Smith doesn't feel so badly; he made a nice little bunch of money out of what he did find.

## Great Record for First Year.

Since Goldfield was populated, two years ago, discoveries have been constantly made. Some of them have yielded fortunes to the owners and have then pinched out. Others have continued to contribute very regularly to the wealth of the camp. It is hardly worth while in an article like this to mention each mine in detail. The general situation is pretty well understood by all readers of daily papers. If any one has perchance allowed Goldfield to suffer in his or her estimation it would be well to recall that no other camp in the world's history has done as much as this one during the first two years of existence. It is impossible to say what the total production will amount to this year. Some estimate as high as \$4,000,000 and others as low as \$2,000,000. If the sum were \$1,000,000 it would be sufficient to justify all the interest that has been accorded it.

A. Impressive feature of the situation in camp is this: There are about 10,000 people here. Nine thousand of them believe the hills herabouts are full of wealth. No one is discouraged. On the contrary, everyone seems to feel that the finding of more wealth is only a matter of continued development work, and this work is being done, often through great sacrifice of money and strength of honest miners. These men are buoyed up by shining examples of rewards gained by the successful ones.

## Fight for the Jumbo.

It is impossible to more than predict what the future holds. Those who recall the earliest startling stories of the discoveries made will remember how men found gold on Jumbo hill and been carted it away under the guard of guns. A million dollars' worth was extracted at that time, and it came from great veins which cropped on the surface and dipped down almost perpendicularly into the bowels of the earth. These veins were worked to a depth of about 100 feet. The leasers on them were all for short periods of time and with their expiration the property was plunged into litigation from which it is only now seeing its way clear. Had it not been for this litigation the history of the camp would have been far more interesting for the period of the past year. Some work has been done there, it is true, but apparently it has not been carried on in earnest, and no attempt has been made to hoist ore. Notwithstanding this fact, the company is in splendid condition financially, and has just declared a \$70,000 dividend, payable Jan. 2.

Much space is devoted to the Jumbo, because this property is typical of Goldfield. There is much other valuable property in the district, and there are mines which have produced more gold, but there is little Jumbo stock for sale, and in "boosting" it the writer is playing no man's game; he is just throwing a side light on Goldfield itself.

Now that the litigation is about disposed of it is expected that Jumbo will be allowed to show what it can do, and what it will do is likely to make the world sit up and take notice. Every miner acquainted with the district feels his eyes longingly on that hill. The great veins first discovered varied in width from two feet to perhaps twelve feet. The walls were scarcely scratched; the leasers had only time for the rich rock in the veins. In all the old workings very good values can be picked up at almost any point, and an experienced miner could make \$100 a day just picking up rich specimens lying around the surface and "carting" them off in his pockets.

## Mountain Filled With Gold.

During the summer a main working shaft has been sunk to a depth of 450 feet. It is at this writing the deepest shaft in camp. When cross-cuts are run from various points in this shaft to the center of Jumbo hill immense wealth is bound to be encountered. Leasers took a million dollars off the surface, practically, of this hill in the

space of a few months' time. No one can tell what they will uncover there when the proposition is tackled in a miner-like, business-like way, as is about to happen. Things like this in the situation are what make it impossible to predict with any degree of reliability what the production of the camp will amount to during the coming year, but it will be seen that every indication is full of promise. Men here claim that Goldfield has not had its boom yet; they promise wonderful excitement during the next few months.

There are many things that ought to be mentioned in an article of this character, but it is hard to decide what to include and what to leave out, for no paper could afford space for them all. Tents and cabins are disappearing slowly but surely. There never was only time for the rich rock in the veins. In all the old workings very good values can be picked up at almost any point, and an experienced miner could make \$100 a day just picking up rich specimens lying around the surface and "carting" them off in his pockets.

Many of the latter class will doubtless be successful. The Bullfrog district has hardly kept pace with its neighbor on the north in the matter of keeping up the excitement and public interest, but this is not because the mines are not all there just the same. Bullfrog is a little too far out of the world to make itself heard often enough. It was so far away that boosters could tell any old sort of lies about it without fear of contradiction for a month at a time. Thus they early gave the Montgomery Shoshone mine credit for containing by "actual measurement" \$30,000,000 worth of ore. There were many stories like this circulated about a year ago at this time and when they were exploded finally a sort of reaction set in. Bullfrog has had much to contend with. The summer was a trying time in that locality. Men could not stand the heat and were compelled to leave. Then it was found by team seventy miles to Goldfield and nearly 1,000 miles by rail from Goldfield to smelter, at a profit. So Bullfrog is waiting for a railroad. This it is destined to have as fast as men and money can build it there. Senator Clark is working from Las Vegas on the south, and seems likely to have an engine steaming into Bullfrog within a few months' time at most. Someone will doubtless construct a line from Goldfield on the north, also. The Tonopah Mining company people

Continued on Page 8.